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Celedon et al.

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(54) **PIÑATA POLE SUPPORT ASSEMBLY**

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B66C 23/16	(2006.01)
A63B 71/02	(2006.01)

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CPC ***A63B 67/10*** (2013.01); ***A63B 71/023*** (2013.01); ***A63H 17/12*** (2013.01); ***B66C 23/166*** (2013.01); ***F16M 11/22*** (2013.01); *A63B 2225/093* (2013.01); *B66D 2700/026* (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC A63H 17/12; B66C 23/166; A63B 67/10; A63B 71/023; A63B 2225/093; B66D 2700/026
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See application file for complete search history.

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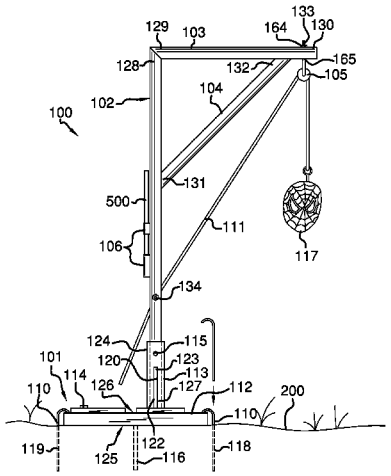
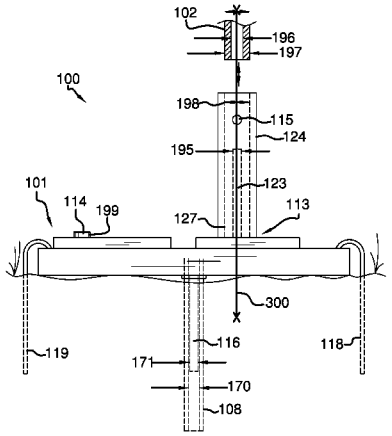
(57) **ABSTRACT**

The piñata pole support assembly is a structure that holds a piñata in place during celebrations. The piñata pole support assembly comprises a stand, vertical pole, top pole, brace, pulley, ground post, rope hook, stick holder, and a plurality of hold down pins.

15 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets





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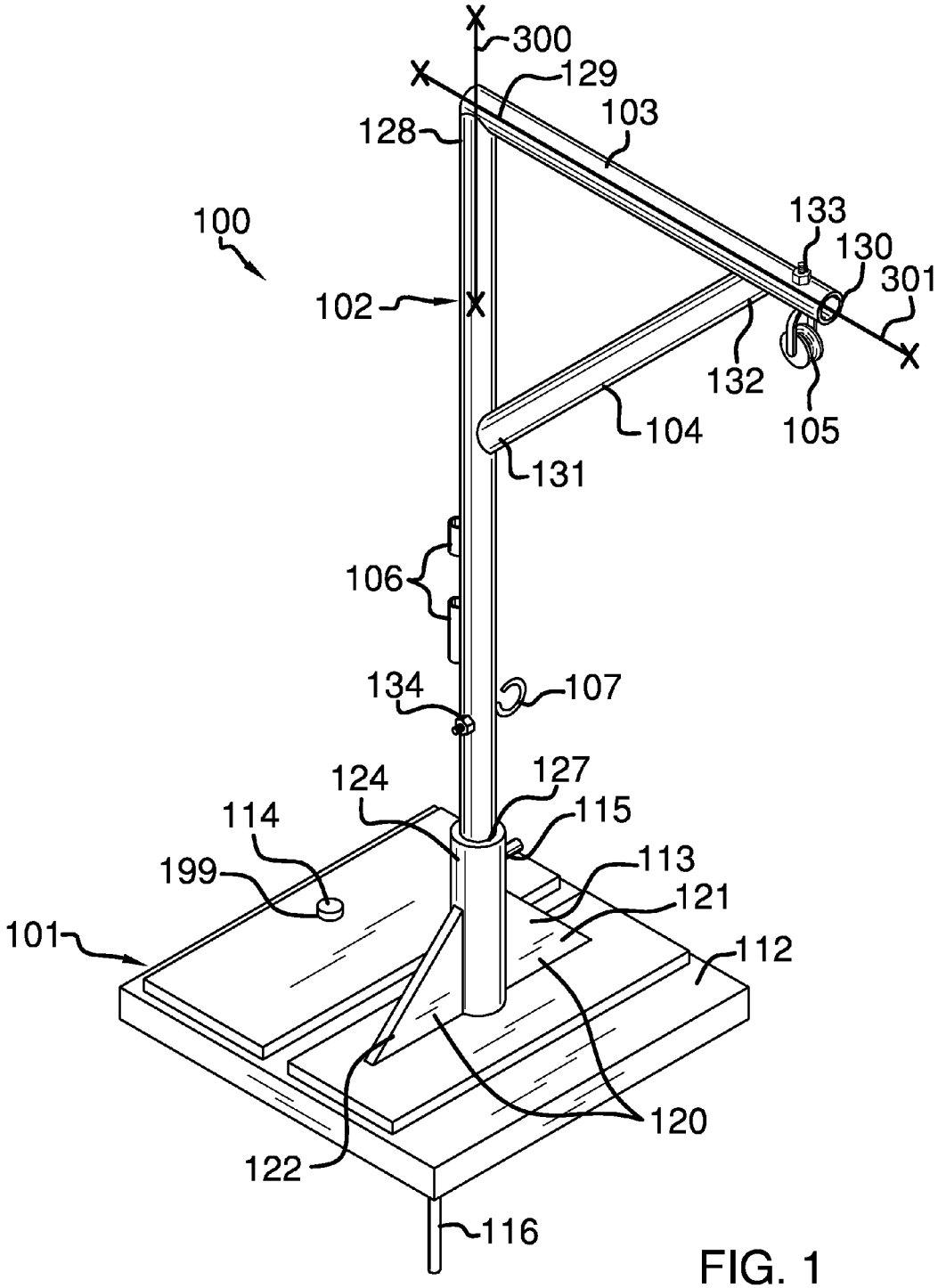
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FIG. 1

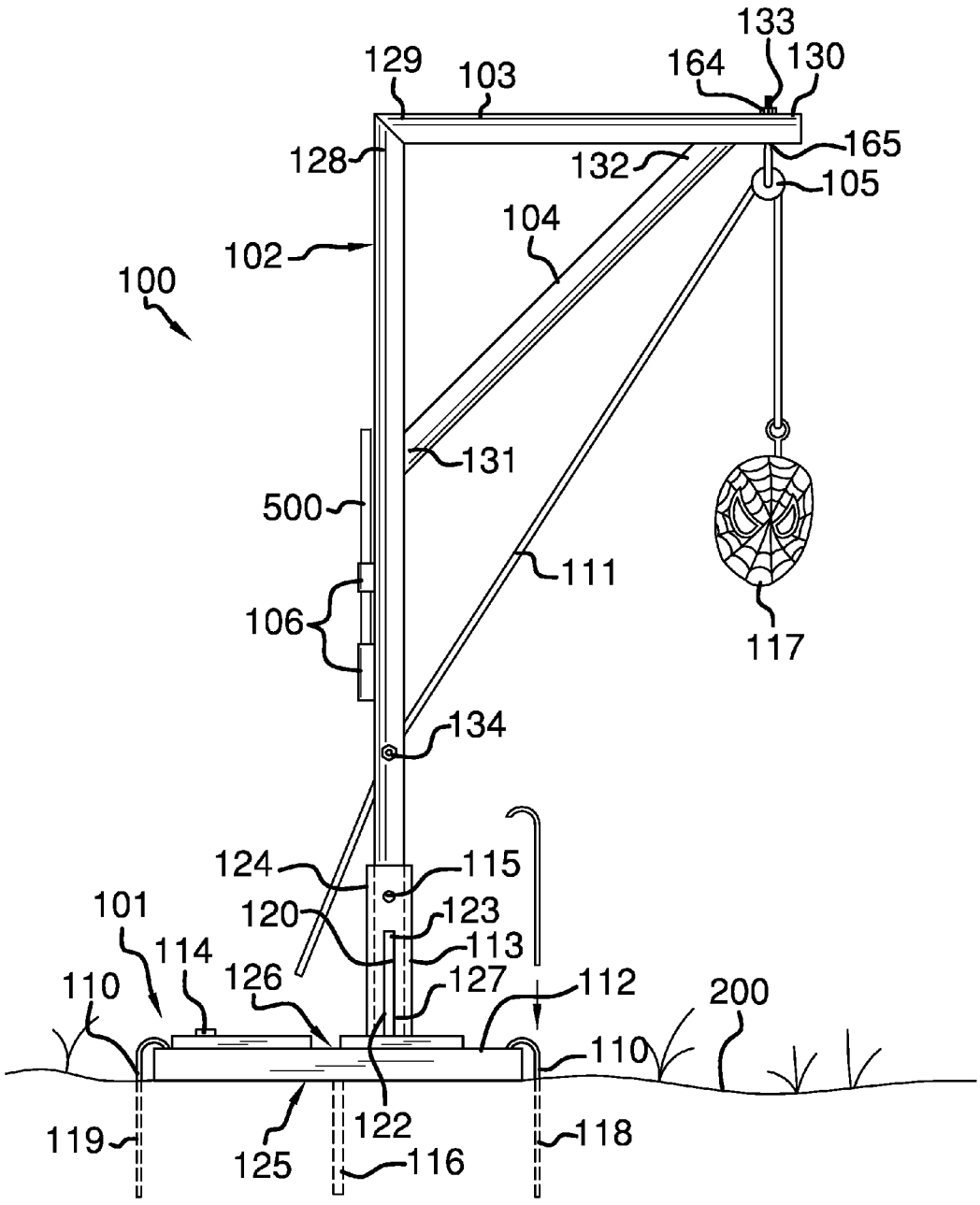
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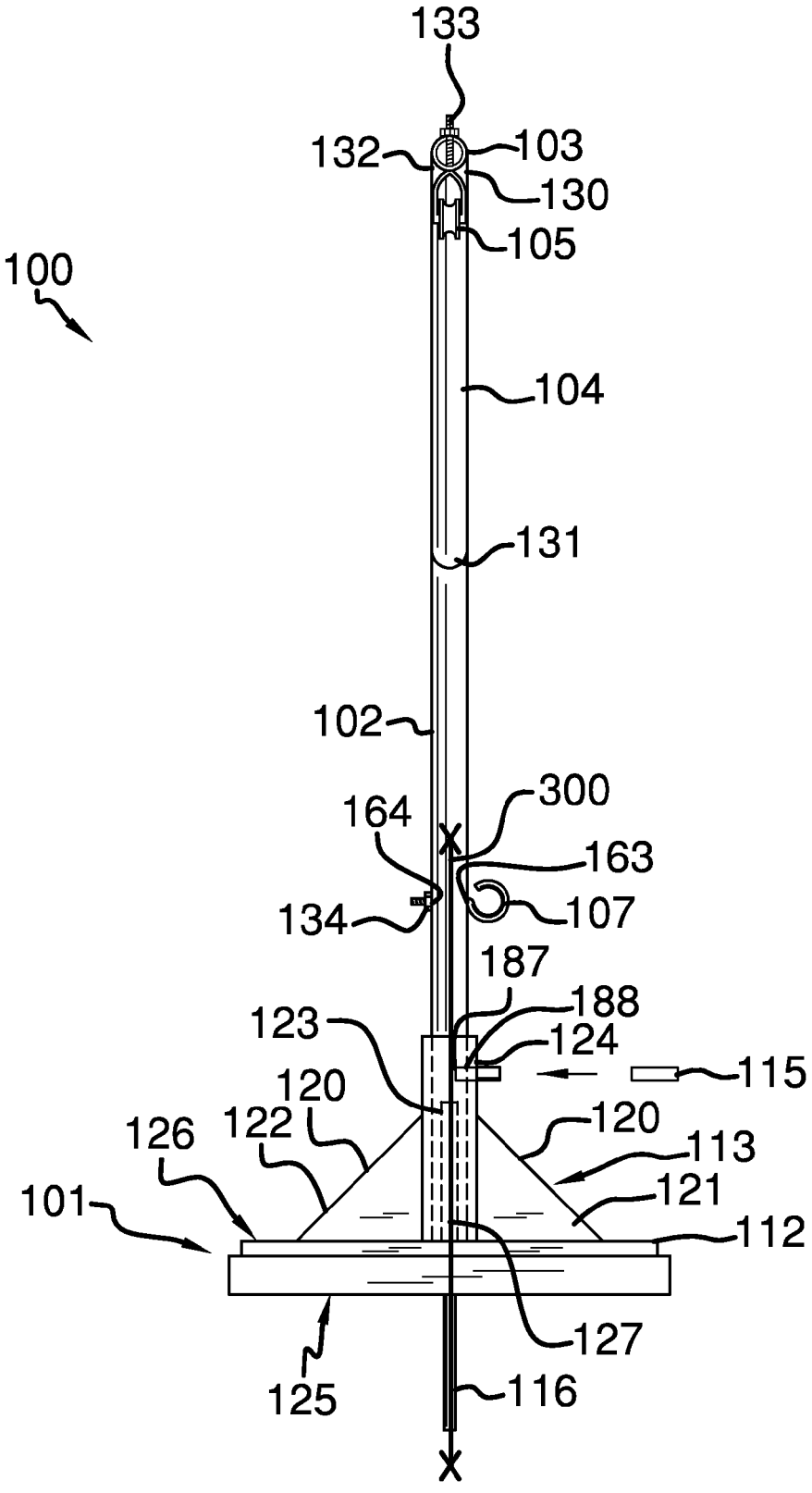
FIG. 2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112
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125
116

FIG. 3

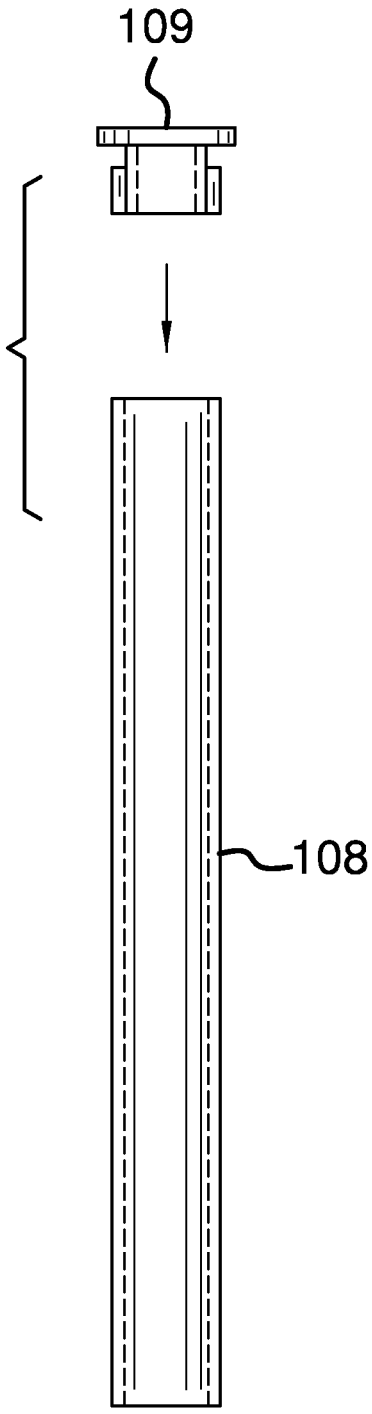

FIG. 4

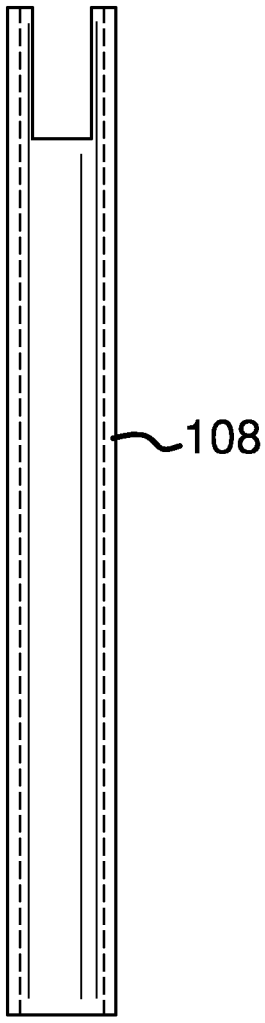

FIG. 5

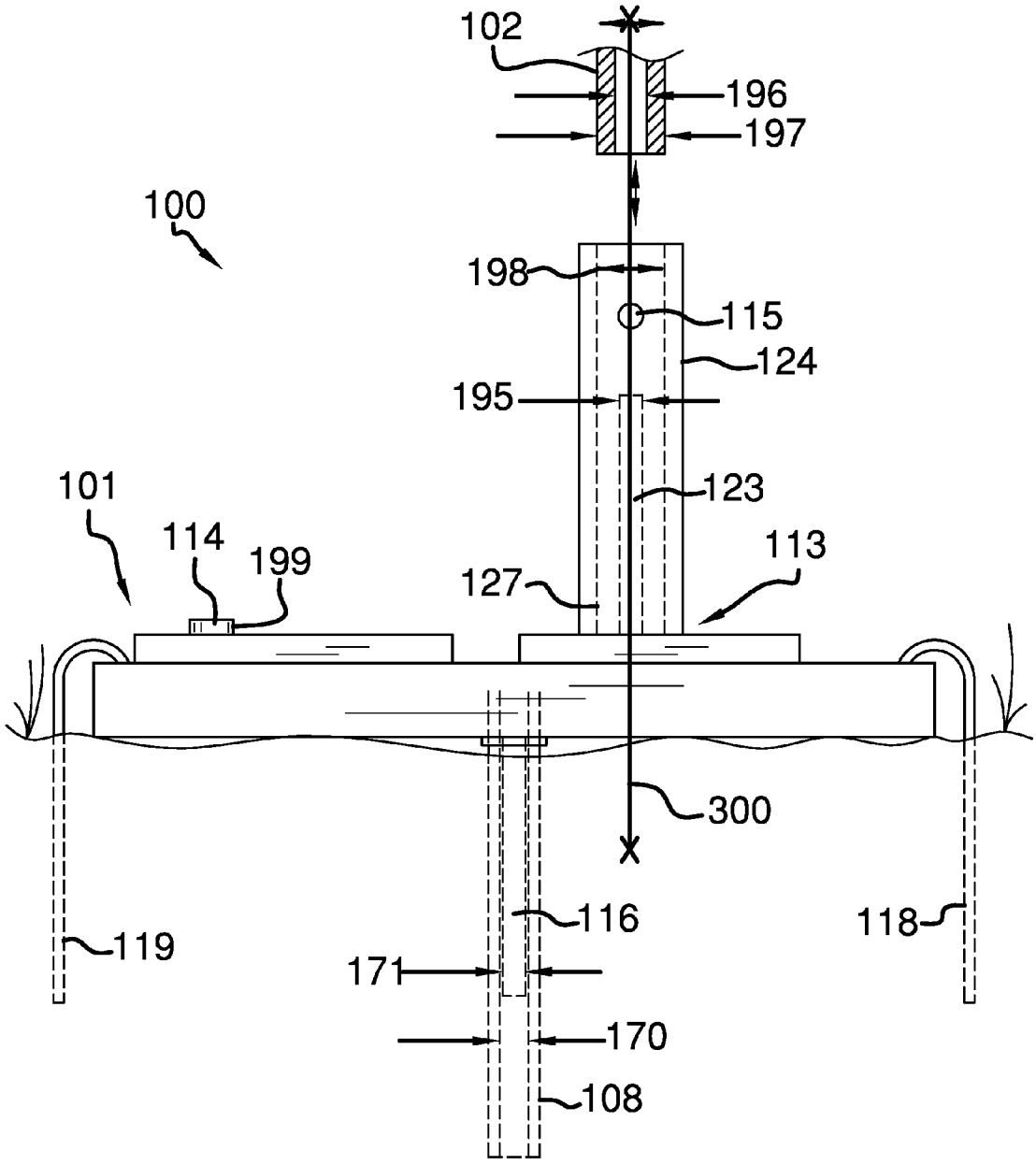
102
196
197
100
198
115
124
195
123
101
114
199
113
127
300
116
118
119
171
170
108

FIG. 6

PIÑATA POLE SUPPORT ASSEMBLY

CROSS REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH

Not Applicable

REFERENCE TO APPENDIX

Not Applicable

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to the field of games and game accessories, more specifically, an accessory configured for use with piñatas.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

The piñata pole support assembly is a structure that holds a piñata in place during celebrations. The components of the piñata pole support assembly comprise a stand, a ground post, a plurality of hold down pins, a vertical pole, a top pole, a brace, a pulley, associated hardware and optional accessories.

These together with additional objects, features and advantages of the piñata pole support assembly will be readily apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art upon reading the nonetheless illustrative, embodiments when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

In this respect, before explaining the current embodiments of the piñata pole support assembly in detail, it is to be understood that the piñata pole support assembly is not limited in its applications to the details of construction and arrangements of the components set forth in the following description or illustration. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the concept of this disclosure may be readily utilized as a basis for the design of other structures, methods, and systems for carrying out the several purposes of the piñata pole support assembly.

It is therefore important that the claims be regarded as including such equivalent construction insofar as they do not depart from the spirit and scope of the piñata pole support assembly. It is also to be understood that the phraseology and terminology employed herein are for purposes of description and should not be regarded as limiting.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

The accompanying drawings, which are included to provide a further understanding of the invention are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate an embodiment of the invention and together with the description meant to be exemplary illustrations provided to enable persons skilled in the art to practice the disclosure and are not intended to limit the scope of the appended claims.

FIG. **1** is an isometric view of an embodiment of the disclosure.

FIG. **2** is an in-use side view of an embodiment of the disclosure.

FIG. **3** is a front view of an embodiment of the disclosure.

FIG. **4** is a close front view of a detail of the embodiment of the disclosure.

FIG. **5** is a close side view of a detail of the embodiment of the disclosure.

FIG. **6** is a close view of a detail of the embodiment of the disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENT

The following detailed description is merely exemplary in nature and is not intended to limit the described embodiments of the application and uses of the described embodiments. As used herein, the word "exemplary" or "illustrative" means "serving as an example, instance, or illustration." Any implementation described herein as "exemplary" or "illustrative" is not necessarily to be construed as preferred or advantageous over below are exemplary implementations provided to enable persons skilled in the art to practice the disclosure and are not intended to limit the scope of the appended claims. Furthermore, there is no intention to be bound by any expressed or implied theory presented in the preceding technical field, background, brief summary or the following detailed description.

In the specification and claims, the following definitions will be used:

Pipe: As used in this disclosure, the term pipe is used to describe a rigid hollow cylinder. While pipes that are suitable for use in this disclosure are often used to transport on convey fluids or gasses, the purpose of the pipes in this disclosure are structural. In this disclosure, the terms inner diameter of a pipe and outer diameter are used as they would be used by those skilled in the plumbing arts.

Centerline: As used in this disclosure, the centerline is the axis of the pipe cylinder. When two pipes are centered on the same line this means that the cylinders of both pipes share the same axis.

Detailed reference will now be made to a first potential embodiment of the disclosure, which is illustrated in FIGS. **1** through **6**. The piñata pole support assembly **100** (hereinafter pole **102**, a top pole **103**, a brace **104**, a pulley **105** and associated hardware and optional accessories.

The stand **101** comprises a base **112**, footing **113**, lock pin **115**, center hold down pin **116**, and an insert plug **114**.

The base **112** is the platform to support the invention **100**. The base **112** is in the shape of a rectangular block with a hollow center. A bottom **125** of the base **112** is adapted to be placed on a ground surface **200**. A top **126** of the base **112** is the face of the rectangular block that is not adjacent to the bottom **125** of the base **112**. The base **112** is formed with a ballast hole **199** that allows for water or sand to be fed into the hollow center of the base **112**. The purpose of the water or sand is to weight the base **112**. Once the base **112** has been weighted, the ballast hole **199** is plugged with the insert plug **114**. The footing **113** and the center hold down pin **116** are also attached to the base **112**.

The purpose of the center hold down pin **116** is to fit within the ground post **108**. The center hold down pin **116** and the ground post **108** are centered on the same line. The ground post **108** holds the base **112** in position during usage. The center hold down pin **116** is a pipe that is attached to the bottom **125** of the base **112**.

The purpose of the footing **113** is to hold the vertical pole shaft **124**, a stability shaft **123**, a plurality of support flanges **120**, and a lock pin **115**. The stability shaft **123** is a pipe that is attached to the top **126** of the base **112**. The support shaft **124** is a pipe that is attached to the top **126** of the base **112**. The

support shaft **124** is selected so that size of an inner diameter **198** of the support shaft **124** is greater than an outer vertical pole diameter **197** of the vertical pole **102**. Moreover, the vertical pole **102** has an inner vertical pole diameter **196** that is greater than a stability outer diameter **195** of the stability shaft **123**.

The stability shaft **123** is mounted so that a centerline **300** of the shaft is perpendicular to the surface of the top **126** of the base **112**. The support shaft **124** is mounted over the stability shaft **123** so that the support shaft **124** and the stability shaft **123** are both centered on the centerline **300**.

The plurality of support flanges **120** are two or more plates that are attached to base **112** and the support shaft **124**. The purpose of the plurality of support flanges **120** is to strengthen and support the support shaft **124**, especially in cases when the vertical pole **102** shifts. The vertical pole **102** has a first hole **188** formed in it and the support shaft **124** has a second **187** hole formed in it. When the vertical pole **102** is inserted in the support shaft **124**, the first hole **188** and the second hole aligned, a lock pin **115** is inserted through the first hole and the second hole. This prevents the vertical pole **102** from rotating within the support shaft **124**.

The ground post **108** is a pipe that is adapted to be set into the ground surface **200**. The ground post **108** is selected so that an inner ground diameter **170** of the ground post **108** is greater than an outer center diameter **171** of the center hold down pin **116**.

The primary purpose of the vertical pole **102** is to provide a structure to raise the top pole **103**. When in use, the first end **127** of the vertical pole **102** is inserted into the support shaft **124** so that the stability shaft **123** fits into the center of the vertical pole **102**. The purpose of the stability shaft **123** is to help secure the vertical pole **102** and prevent it from shifting within the support shaft **124**.

A second end **128** of the vertical pole **102** is connected to a third end **129** of the top pole **103**. The top pole **103** is connected to the vertical pole **102** so that a top centerline **301** of the top pole **103** radiates perpendicularly away from the centerline **300** of the vertical pole **102**. A pulley **105** is attached to a fourth end **130** of the top pole **103**.

A brace **104** is used to support the top pole **103**. The brace **104** is made of a pipe. A fifth end **131** of the brace **104** is attached to the vertical pole **102**. A sixth end **132** of the brace **104** is attached to the top pole **103**. The brace **104** is at an approximate 45 degree angle to the centerline **300** of the vertical pole **102**. The brace **104** is also set at an approximate 45 degree angle to the top centerline **301** of the top pole **103**. The brace **104** is set so that there is at least 4 inches of space between the fourth end **130** of the top pole **103** and the sixth end **132** of the brace **104**.

The pulley **105** is attached to the fourth end **130** of the top pole **103**. To attach the pulley **105**, a fifth hole **164** and a sixth hole **165** are formed into the fourth end **130** of the top pole **103**. The pulley **105** is attached to a bolt secured through the fifth hole **164** and the sixth hole **165**.

The associated hardware comprises rope **111**, a rope hook **107**, a plurality of hold down pins **110**, and nuts and bolts to assemble the invention **100**. A third hole **163** and a fourth hole **162** are drilled through walls the vertical pole **102**. The rope hook **107** is secured to the vertical pole **102** by bolting the rope hook **107** in place through third hole **163** and the fourth hole **162**. The plurality of hold down pins **110** are commercially available tie down/wind stakes that are set into the ground surface **200**, and are used to further secure the stand **101** in position. As discussed below, nuts and bolts may be used to The optional accessories comprise a stick holder **106** and a top connector **109**. The stick holder **106** is one or more pipes that are affixed to the vertical pole **102**. The purpose of the stick holder **106** is to provide a storage space for a piñata stick **500** when not in use. The purpose of the top connector **109** is to provide a protective cover for the ground post **108** to be used to protect the ground post **108** from filling with dirt and debris when the invention **100** is disassembled. The ground post **108** is permanently set in the ground surface **200** during installation and use.

To install and use the invention **100**, the ground post **108** is first set into the ground surface **200**, and, if necessary, cleaned of dirt and debris. The ground post **108** is a permanent installation and would not be removed when the invention **100** is subsequently disassembled. The stand **101** is then put into place by inserting the center hold down pin **116** into the ground post **108**. The stand **101** is further secured using the plurality of hold down pins **110** by setting each individual hold down pin into the ground and attaching it to the stand **101**. The first end **127** of the vertical pole **102** is then inserted into the support shaft **124** of the footing **113** and secured with the lock pin **115**. The third end **129** of the top pole **103** is attached to the second end **128** of the vertical pole **102** and the brace **104** is fitted into of the top pole **103**. A rope **111** is threaded through the pulley **105**. The first end of the rope **111** is adapted to be attached to a piñata **117**. Once the rope **111** is secured to the piñata **117**, the piñata **117** can be raised to the desired position will be held in place once the second end of the rope **111** is tied off onto the rope hook **107**.

The base **112** and the insert plug **114** can be made of molded polyethylene. The footing **113** and center hold down pin **116** may be molded as part of the base **112** or may be fabricated separately and attached using standard hardware and plumbing fittings. When the footing **113** and center hold down pin **116** are fabricated separately, the center hold down pin **116**, stability shaft **123** and support shaft **124** can be made of pipes including, but not limited to, copper, aluminum or PVC pipes. The each of plurality of support flanges **120** are plates that can be made of, but are not limited to, copper, aluminum, PVC, polyethylene, or polycarbonate. The plurality of support flanges **120** can be connected to the support shaft **124** using collars and hardware. If made of metal, the plurality of support flanges **120** may also be brazed to the support shaft **124**

The ground post **108**, brace **104**, and stick holder **106** can be made from pipes including, but not limited to, copper, aluminum or PVC pipes. The top connector **109** can be a standard end cap or end plug for commercially available pipes.

The vertical pole **102** and the top pole **103** can each be made of a single pipe including, but not limited to, copper, aluminum or PVC pipes. The vertical pole **102** and top pole **103** can be attached using a 90 degree plumbing fitting. The brace **104** can then be welded, brazed, or bolted into position. Alternatively, the vertical pole **102** and the top pole **103** can each be made of a two individual pipes and a 45 degree "y" fitting including, but not limited to, copper, aluminum or PVC pipes and fittings. In the alternate configuration, the two "y" fittings allow for the connection of the brace **104**.

The pulley **105** is a standard commercially available pulley. The rope **111** can be any type of twine, cord or rope that has the break strength required to support the piñata **117**. The rope hook **107** can be a commercially available hook screw or eyehook screw. The plurality of hold down pins **110** may be tent anchors or heavier duty auger anchors.

Detailed reference will now be made to a first potential embodiment of the disclosure, which is illustrated in FIGS. **1** through **6**.

FIG. **1** shows an projection view of the invention **100** and shows stand **101** comprising the base **112**, center hold down pin **116**, the footing **113**, and the insert plug **114** and the lock pin **115**. FIG. **1** also shows the support shaft **124**, the lock pin **115** and a first support flange **121** and a second support flange **122**. FIG. **1** also shows the assembly of the vertical pole **102**, top pole **103** and brace **104** as well as the pulley **105**, the installation hardware **133** of the pulley **105**, the rope hook **107** and the installation hardware **134** of the rope hook **107**. The stick holder **106** is comprised of 2 small pipes in the first potential embodiment.

FIG. **2** shows a side view of the invention **100** in use including the piñata **117**, the rope, **111**, and the use of a first hold down pin **118** and a second hold down pin **119**.

FIG. **3** shows a front view of the invention **100** including the use of the lock pin **115**.

FIGS. **4** and **5** show front and side views of the ground post **108** and the top connector **109**. In the first potential embodiment, the top connector **109** is an end cap.

Figure six is a detailed in use view of the stand **101** and the ground post **108**. This view clearly shows the center hold down pin **116** inserted into the ground post **108**, the stability shaft **123**, and the first hold down pin **118** and the second hold down pin **119**.

With respect to the above description, it is to be realized that the optimum dimensional relationship for the various components of the invention described above and in FIGS. **1** through **6**, include variations in size, materials, shape, form, function, and manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art, and all equivalent relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and described in the specification are intended to be encompassed by the invention.

Is shall be noted that those skilled in the art will readily recognize numerous adaptations and modifications which can be made to the various embodiments of the present invention which will result in an improved invention, yet all of which will fall within the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined in the following claims. Accordingly, the invention is to be limited only by the scope of the following claims and their equivalents.

What is claimed is:

1. A piñata pole support assembly comprising:

a ground post adapted to be mounted into a ground surface;

a stand that is affixed to the ground post in order to secure said stand to the ground surface;

a vertical pole is secured to the stand and extends vertically;

a top pole is secured to the vertical pole, and is perpendicularly-oriented therefrom;

a brace is acutely affixed between both the vertical pole and the top pole; and

a pulley is affixed to the top pole, and secure a rope that is adapted to be attached to a piñata;

wherein the stand is further defined with a base, a footing, a lock pin, a center hold down pin, and an insert plug;

wherein a bottom of the base is adapted to be placed on said ground surface; wherein a top of the base is opposite of the bottom of the base; wherein the base is formed with a ballast hole that allows for a weighted material to be fed into a hollow center of the base; wherein the ballast hole is plugged with the insert plug; wherein the footing and the center hold down pin are also attached to the base;

wherein the purpose of the center hold down pin is to fit within the ground post; wherein the center hold down pin and the ground post are concentrically oriented with respect to one another; wherein the center hold down pin is attached to the bottom of the base.

2. The piñata pole support assembly according to claim **1** wherein the footing comprises a support shaft, a stability shaft, a plurality of support flanges, and the lock pin.

3. The piñata pole support assembly according to claim **2** wherein the stability shaft is a pipe that is attached to the top of the base; wherein the support shaft is a pipe that is attached to the top of the base.

4. The piñata pole support assembly according to claim **3** wherein the support shaft is selected so that an inner diameter of the support shaft is greater than an outer vertical pole diameter of the vertical pole.

5. The piñata pole support assembly according to claim **4** wherein the vertical pole has an inner vertical pole diameter that is greater than a stability outer diameter of the stability shaft.

6. The piñata pole support assembly according to claim **5** wherein the stability shaft is mounted so that a centerline of the shaft is perpendicular to the surface of the top of the base; wherein the support shaft is mounted over the stability shaft so that the support shaft and the stability shaft are both centered on the centerline.

7. The piñata pole support assembly according to claim **6** wherein the plurality of support flanges are further defined with two or more plates that are attached to the base and the support shaft; wherein the plurality of support flanges strengthen and support the support shaft.

8. The piñata pole support assembly according to claim **7** wherein the vertical pole has a first hole formed in it and the support shaft has a second hole formed in it; wherein the vertical pole is inserted in the support shaft, the first hole and the second hole align; wherein when the first hole and the second hole are aligned, the lock pin is inserted through the first hole and the second hole.

9. The piñata pole support assembly according to claim **8** wherein the ground post is a pipe that is adapted to be set into the ground surface; wherein the ground post has an inner ground diameter that is greater than an outer center diameter of the center hold down pin.

10. The piñata pole support assembly according to claim **9** wherein a first end of the vertical pole is inserted into the support shaft so that the stability shaft fits into the center of the vertical pole; wherein the stability shaft further secures the vertical pole and prevent the vertical pole from shifting within the support shaft.

11. The piñata pole support assembly according to claim **10** wherein a second end of the vertical pole is connected to a third end of the top pole; wherein the top pole is connected to the vertical pole so that a top centerline of the top pole radiates perpendicularly away from the centerline of the vertical pole.

12. The piñata pole support assembly according to claim **11** wherein a fifth end of the brace is attached to the vertical pole; wherein a sixth end of the brace is attached to the top pole; wherein the brace is at an approximate 45 degree angle to the centerline of the vertical pole; wherein the brace is also set at an approximate 45 degree angle to the top centerline of the top pole.

13. The piñata pole support assembly according to claim **12** wherein the pulley is attached to a fourth end of the top pole; wherein a fifth hole and a sixth hole are formed adjacent the fourth end of the top pole; wherein the pulley is attached via a bolt secured through the fifth hole and the sixth hole.

14. The piñata pole support assembly according to claim **13** wherein a third hole and a fourth hole are provided on the vertical pole; wherein a rope hook is secured to the vertical pole by bolting the rope hook in place through third hole and

the fourth hole; wherein a plurality of hold down pins are adapted to be set into the ground surface in order to further secure the stand.

15. The piñata pole support assembly according to claim **14** wherein a stick holder is affixed to the vertical pole; wherein the stick holder is adapted to provide a storage space for a piñata stick when not in use.

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